

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /062 W

----- 006874

R 231042Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 2871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP

SUBJ: NEPALESE REACTION TO MADAME GANDHI'S TROUBLES

REF: STATE 141342

1. KATHMANDU REACTION TO ALLAHABAD DECISION AGAINST MRS. GANDHI HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY NEPALIS WHO TAKE QUIET SATISFACTION AT HER PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, VIRTUALLY ALL RESPONSIBLE PERSONS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED, INCLUDING ALL HMG OFFICIALS, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL STABILITY IN INDIA IS IN NEPAL'S INTEREST. MANY HAVE SAID THAT DEALING WITH KNOWN QUANTITY, EVEN ONE AS DIFFICULT AS MADAME GANDHI HAS PROVED TO BE FOR NEPAL, IS PREFERABLE TO ANY FORESEEABLE ALTERNATIVE.

2. PRESS COMMENT HAS BEEN LIMITED IN THE SENSE THAT SEMI-OFFICIAL PAPERS (RISING NEPAL AND GORKHAPATRA) HAVE RELEGATED NEWS TO SMALL ITEMS AND HAVE NOT COMMENTED EDITORIALY. ANTI-INDIAN PAPERS (INCLUDING MATRIBHUMI AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAMAJ) HAVE CALLED UPON MRS. GANDHI TO RESIGN. SIX OTHER

PAPERS OF VARYING POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS AND
IMPORTANCE HAVE SUPPORTED HER DECISION TO REMAIN IN OFFICE.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE FACT THAT NEPALESE ARE OFTEN
QUICK TO SEE THE WORST IN ANY SITUATION, THERE HAS BEEN NO
SPECULATION THAT MRS. GANDHI WOULD SEEK TO ALLEVIATE HER
DOMESTIC PROBLEMS BY MAKING NEPAL AN EXTERNAL SCAPEGOAT.
IN FACT HMG OFFICIALS APPEAR CALM AND UNRUFFLED AND GENERAL
ATTITUDE HERE IS "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH GOI IN FULL
EXPECTATION THAT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, MADAME GANDHI WILL
REMAIN AT THE HELM. QUAINTON

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